

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

*Serving St Benedict's, St Mary's & St Oswald's,
Warrington*



Newsletter

**16th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
23 July 2023**

My dear sisters and brothers,

Centenary Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

On Friday, 1500 pilgrims left the Archdiocese for the annual Pilgrimage to Lourdes led by Archbishop Malcolm. This year, the pilgrimage is celebrating its centenary. The first Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes took place in 1923. Since then, hundreds of thousands of people have made the journey over to the south of France every year, except during the Second World War and the Covid-19 pandemic.

Pilgrims will remember the story of Jack Traynor who was left severely injured after the First World War – his right arm was paralysed, his legs were partially paralysed, and he also had epilepsy. After visiting the Lourdes baths, and being blessed by the Archbishop of Rheims, all his ailments disappeared. The official report, issued by the Medical Bureau at Lourdes in 1926, declared that “this extraordinary cure is absolutely beyond and above the powers of nature”.

Today (Sunday), the pilgrims will celebrate Mass with the Archbishop in the Grotto where it is believed that Our Lady appeared to Bernadette. This weekend, we will join the pilgrims in prayer with special Masses in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes and bless the newly restored Grotto at St Benedict's.

Copies of the schedule for this year's Lourdes Pilgrimage can be found at the back of church and on the Parish website.

World Day for Grandparents and Older People

Today is the third World Day for Grandparents and Older People. Pope Francis instituted the day in 2021 because he believes grandparents are often forgotten, yet they “are the link between generations, passing on

the experience of life and faith to the young.” Pope Francis has written a beautiful message for the day focused on the Visitation when the young Mary went to meet her elderly cousin, Elizabeth. There are copies at the back of church and on the Parish website.

Illegal Migration Bill

I was shocked and deeply saddened to see the House of Commons vote down the amendments to the Illegal Migration Bill tabled by the House of Lords this week. This Bill will now become law. Lead Bishop for Migrants and Refugees, Bishop Paul McAleenan, said:

“This legislation stands at odds with the teaching of the Church on welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating refugees. Refugees are human beings made in the image and likeness of God, not a political problem to be solved. We must never make recognition of people's dignity dependent upon where they come from or how they reach our country. The biblical call to love the stranger is unequivocal and indiscriminate. As a Church, we will continue to welcome those seeking sanctuary here and call for the expansion of safe routes. We urge our government to redouble its efforts to tackle factors such as conflict, persecution, and climate change that force people to flee their homes.”

“And he's off!”

Yes, folks, after the Masses this weekend, I will be taking a much-needed break for the next two weeks. *Please note:* the Parish Office will also be closed to give Celia a break and St Benedict's Church will be closed during the week. I do hope you will be able to manage a break sometime during the summer.

*With my prayers,
Fr Dave*

General Information

1) **Parish Priest:** Canon Dave Heywood. Tel: 01925 630127. Email: frdave@rcaol.org.uk Address: St Benedict's Priory, Rhodes Street, Warrington WA2 7QE. **Deacons:** Revv Tony Kerrigan & David Boyle.

2) **Parish Office:** Please note – the Parish Office will be closed this week and next.

3) **Parish Website** www.blessedjamesbell.co.uk

4) **St Benedict's Church** will only be open for Sunday Mass this week.

5) **Communion at Home** – If you are not able to come to Mass and would like to receive communion at home, please phone the Parish Office (630127).

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

	St Benedict's	St Oswald's
Sunday 23 July 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) <i>World Day for Grandparents and Older People</i>	10.30 am Mass Pilgrims in Lourdes	(Sat) 4.30 pm Vigil Mass Shirley Lo 8.30 am Mass The Parishioners
Monday 24 July		7.00 pm Prayer Group
Tuesday 25 July Feast of St James, Apostle		No Mass today
Wednesday 26 July Saints Joachim & Anne	No Exposition or Mass today	
Thursday 27 July		No Mass or Novena today
Friday 28 July	<i>(Funeral for Baby Emma at Walton Lea)</i> No Mass today	
Saturday 29 July Saints Martha, Mary & Lazarus		4.30 pm Vigil Mass The Parishioners
Sunday 30 July 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)	10.30 am Mass Olive Elizabeth Swift	8.30 am Mass Mark Hastry

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

16.07.23	£647.08	(£257.00 Gift Aid)
Standing Orders	£126.23	(£99.69 Gift Aid)
Digital Giving	£165.50	(£33.50 Gift Aid)
Online Giving	£58.26	
Total	£997.07	
2nd Collection	£420.15	(Priests in Retirement)
Donation	£140.00	

Thank you so much for your generosity.

WANTED – BIKES FOR REFUGEES

If anyone has an old bike languishing in a shed or garage that is surplus to requirements, we can use them. Adult size, men's or women's, working or in need of repair. We can arrange collection. If you can help, please call Miriam on (01925) 815646.

FIX THE FOOD SYSTEM

If you've not already done so, please sign CAFOD's big letter calling on the UK government to protect the right of farmers around the world to choose their own seeds. You will find the letter on a table at the front of church. Many thanks.

STRAWBERRY FAIR

Thank you so much to Chris, Miriam, Sandra, Bruce and Clara for the wonderful Strawberry Fair last Sunday. It was buzzing and did us all the world of good.

DEANERY SYNODAL COUNCIL

Last week, the Deanery Synodal Council marked its first anniversary. The group, made up of representatives from each parish in the Deanery, has been meeting for a year to explore and understand synodality and implement the Pastoral Plan which

emerged from our Archdiocesan Synod. I will write more about what we've been doing and the progress we are making next month.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 4)

Today	16th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
<i>Readings</i>	Wisdom 12: 13, 16-19 Romans 8: 26-27 Matthew 13: 24-43
Weekdays	Ordinary Time – Year 1, Week 16

LET US HOLD IN PRAYER

Those who are sick or homebound, especially:

St Benedict's & St Mary's

Luciano Bartolo, Ian Buist, Peter Burke, Carol Feeney, Malcolm Hackwell, Jean Hendricks, Anne Hill, Mary Hinchliffe, Ged Hughes, Susan Keating, Peter Milner, Trina Mouldsdales, Sandra Richardson, Kate Rigby, Pembolina Smith, Matilde Valentine, Paul Vernon, Barbara Williamson, Dolores Woodall.

St Oswald's

Keith Bate, Catherine Carne, Peter Cox, Susan Disley, Dave Ferris, Betty Fiddler, Sam Johnson, Miriam Jones, Peter McKeown, Jean Murphy, Jo Roberts, Cathy Spencer, Claire Taylor, Margaret Watts.

Other Parishes

Catherine Donaldson, June Fallon, Archbishop Patrick Kelly, Margaret Mobbs, Sr Maire Moms, Pamela Watson (*nee* Park), Marie Barnes.

Those who have died recently, especially:

Peter Hastry, Veronica (Vera) Brindle, John Hughes (Vietnam), Fr John Harris and Baby Emma Nagy.